



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Kazuhiko TAKADA** Group Art Unit: **2811**
Serial Number: **09/528,296** Examiner: **Ori Nadav**
Filed: **March 17, 2000** Confirmation No.: **4124**
For: **SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE HAVING A GUARD RING**
Customer No. **38834**

REPLY BY APPLICANT TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Mail Stop: AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 2, 2004

Sir:

Applicant responds herein to the July 2, 2004 Office Action. The period for response thereto extended by the accompanying Petition for Extension of Time.

Claims 1-4 and 7-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 and 7 were examined on the merits in the last Office Action. Claims 8-12 are withdrawn from consideration. No claims are amended, canceled, or added with the present submission.

Claims 1-4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over the prior art depicted in the present application, labeled "Admitted Prior Art (APA)," in view of *Cook et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,022,791) and *Chiang et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,817,572). Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reason: